

working together, this country is going to be in great shape for the future.

Thank you very much.

The Moderator. We want to make the President an honorary Louisianian so he can properly celebrate Mardi Gras, so I'm going to give him my beads which I wear every day. *[Laughter]*

The President. When I am no longer President—and I have been making this little list of all of all the things I wanted to do in my life I never got around to doing, and if God leaves me healthy and I can do it—when I'm taking time off of paying my legal bills—*[laughter]*—I've got this list of things I want to do. And one of the things I want to do is go to the Mardi Gras and play my saxophone with a group like that. If I live long enough, I'll wear these beads.

Thank you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:10 p.m. in the auditorium at the Department of Commerce. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gov. Kathleen Blanco of Louisiana and Claude (Buddy) Leach, king of Washington Mardi Gras.

Statement on the Terrorist Attack in London, United Kingdom

February 9, 1996

All Americans join Hillary and me in our outrage at the bomb explosion today in London. I condemn in the strongest possible terms this cowardly action and hope those responsible are brought swiftly to justice. Our hearts and prayers go out to those injured in this terrible blast and to their families.

I am deeply concerned by reports that the Irish Republican Army has announced an end to the cease-fire. For a year and a half, the people of the United Kingdom and Ireland have enjoyed living in peace, free to go about their daily lives without the threat of the bomb and the bullet. As was clear during my visit to Northern Ireland last year, the

people want peace. No one and no organization has the right to deny them that wish.

The terrorists who perpetrated today's attack cannot be allowed to derail the effort to bring peace to the people of Northern Ireland—a peace they overwhelmingly support.

The United States stands ready to assist the two Governments in continuing their search for negotiations and peace. Today's action underscores the urgent need for all sides to join in the fight against terrorism and to press forward in that search.

Statement on the Floods in Oregon and Washington

February 9, 1996

Our hearts and prayers go out to the thousands of people in Oregon and Washington who have been inundated by the devastating floods and those who are waging a brave fight to keep the water from pouring over the river banks.

In an effort to provide quick action in their urgent time of need, today I have signed Federal disaster declarations for Oregon and Washington. These declarations will give help to individuals, including temporary housing, family grants, and low-interest loans. We are also providing funds to help rebuild the State and local infrastructure.

I have asked FEMA Director James Lee Witt to go to both Oregon and Washington, survey the damage, and lead the Federal response and recovery efforts.

The people of Oregon and Washington have demonstrated a remarkable amount of courage and resilience in this difficult time. I know they cannot recover alone. We are with them for as long as it takes.

Finally, let me take a moment to express my deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those who have lost their lives during this natural disaster. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

**Memorandum on Benefits for
Military Personnel Subject to
Involuntary Separation**

February 9, 1996

*Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense,
the Secretary of Transportation, the
Secretary of Veterans Affairs*

Subject: Benefits for Military Personnel
Involuntarily Separated from the Armed
Services as a Result of HIV

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 (S. 1124) contains a provision I strongly oppose, which requires the discharge of all military personnel living with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), regardless of whether there is any medical necessity for such discharge. This provision is clearly discriminatory and wholly unwarranted. It is also highly punitive. Service members discharged pursuant to this provision would not receive the benefits to which they would otherwise be entitled had they continued to serve until it became medically necessary for them to retire.

Consequently, I will give my full support to legislative efforts to repeal this provision.

In the meantime, I am committed to ensuring full benefits to these service members and their families to ameliorate the unfair burden this legislation will place on them. I am therefore directing you, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget and such other agencies as may be appropriate, to take all necessary steps, consistent with applicable law, to ensure that these service members and their families receive the full benefits they are entitled to, including, among other things, disability retirement pay, health care coverage for their families, and transition benefits such as vocational education.

This memorandum is for the internal management of the executive branch and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any person.

William J. Clinton

**Message to the Congress on
Organizations Which Threaten to
Disrupt the Middle East Peace
Process**

February 9, 1996

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby report to the Congress on the developments concerning the national emergency with respect to organizations that threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order No. 12947 of January 23, 1995. This report is submitted pursuant to section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).

1. On January 23, 1995, I signed Executive Order 12947, "Prohibiting Transactions with Terrorists Who Threaten to Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process" (the "order") (60 *Fed. Reg.* 5079, January 25, 1995). The order blocks all property subject to U.S. jurisdiction in which there is any interest of 12 terrorist organizations that threaten the Middle East peace process as identified in an Annex to the order. The order also blocks the property and interests in property subject to U.S. jurisdiction of persons designated by the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, who are found (1) to have committed, or to pose a significant risk of committing, acts of violence that have the purpose or effect of disrupting the Middle East peace process, or (2) to assist in, sponsor or provide financial, material, or technological support for, or services in support of, such acts of violence. In addition, the order blocks all property and interests in property subject to U.S. jurisdiction in which there is any interest of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, to be owned or controlled by, or to act for or on behalf of, any other person designated pursuant to the order (collectively "Specially Designated Terrorists" or "SDTs").

The order further prohibits any transaction or dealing by a United States person or within the United States in property or interests in property of SDTs, including the making